GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:295
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
PROTECTION FOR FISHERMEN BY THE COAST GUARD
Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coast Guard has the responsibility to protect the fishermen and to guide them in sensitive places near the borders of other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure that the fishermen do not stray into the waters of any nearby country;

(c) whether the Coast Guard has shown desired results in protecting and guiding our fishermen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps, if any, proposed to review the functioning of Coast Guard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.295 FOR ANSWER ON 3.9.2007

The duties of Indian Coast Guard interalia include providing protection to fishermen including assistance to them at sea while in distress in the maritime zone of India.

Indian Coast Guard ships and aircraft regularly carryout surveillances and patrolling in the Indian Maritime Zone and along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). They also guide the Indian fishermen boats found crossing the IMBL. Besides patrolling, the Indian Coast Guard also undertakes community interaction programme wherein the fishermen living in the coastal villages are educated about the perils of crossing IMBL, ie., apprehension by the security agencies, firing upon by terrorist groups and issues like safety at sea, search and rescue procedure, use of available communication and safety equipment at sea.

579 Indian fishermen and 99 boats were apprehended by the Sri Lanka and Pakistan in the year 2004. Due to regular surveillance by Coast Guard, this has decreased to 301 fishermen and 49 boats in the year 2006. As on date, 56 Indian fishermen and 15 boats have been apprehended by these countries during the current year 2007.There have been number of occasions wherein Coast Guard has proactively rescued Indian fishermen. Director General Coast Guard and Regional Commanders through reviews and field visits regularly monitor the working of the field force.